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en a part of the racemes immersed, so that only the flowering portion was visible. The pods were therefore kept under water, and I rarely found one to have ripened seeds and I doubt whether these would have germinated. As the pods were slightly inflated I concluded that they served to hold the still flowering portion above water. If the pods ripen but rarely the plant must have other means of propagation since it spreads rapidly. And these it has, for it was found to spread abundantly by means of branches from the base of the stems trailing along the bottom of the pond and striking roots as they grow. About the flowering season, the much divided immersed leaves break off from the stem. Just above their bases a small branch appears. The base of the parent leaf curves downwards into the water, so that the branches as they grow larger are enabled to float on the water, by bending away from the parent leaf so that the midrib of the parent leaf and the stem of the branch are in the same line. While still small the roots appear at the base of of the stem and run up the curved base of the parent leaf for a distance of one-fourth inch from the base; in this manner they are sometimes above water but still appearing to be in good health. Here my observations ceased. Whether these rootlets derive nutriment from the parent leaves, if they continue to grow until they reach the tip of the leaves, I know not. But in a month they had all become attached to the bottom of the pond. Still it seems probable that as the base of the stem becomes too heavy to float it sinks into the water, the heavy parent leaves begin to rot and hang vertically and so direct the roots into the soil, at the same time affording nutriment, which it as yet does not obtain from the ground.—
AUG. F. FOERSTE, *Dayton, Ohio.*

Hieracium aurantiacum, L.—*Hieracium aurantiacum* (not *aurantium*, as printed at p. 248.) I have had sent to me several times from correspondents in the Eastern States during the past twenty years, and sometimes from stations which suggested that this plant may possibly be indigenous. It would be well, before the plant becomes too common for the purpose, to note the surroundings, so as to judge of the mode of introduction if possible. Miss Mary S. Cope, of the Ladies' Botany Club of Germantown, collected fine specimens on the Catskills in July of this year. A native of Siberia, according to Gmelin, there is no reason why it may not be indigenous in some of our higher mountains, the chief objection to this view being its apparent rapid spread of late years. A plant of its character would, in all probability, have been more widely distributed if truly indigenous. Still I think it would be well to have a note of all the stations and conditions under which they grow.—THOMAS MEEHAN.

Albinism.—White flowers of species normally blue or red are comparatively common. It does not seem to be on record that colored flowers ever come from those normally white. The white varieties of colored species, when under culture, continue to reproduce white flowers, at least I never knew one to revert till now. I enclose the specimen *Wahlenbergia grandiflora.* One single blue flower has come

out from the stalk which bore all others white. I have also one plant from the white seed which so far has produced blue flowers. It establishes the fact that an albino can revert to its normal color.—
THOMAS MEEHAN.

Rootstocks of Convolvulus sepium.—In a recent visit to Fredericton, N. B., my brother, Prof. L. W. Bailey, of the University of New Brunswick, called my attention to the peculiar rootstock of *Convolvulus sepium.* The Indians of the Melicete tribe had, he said, shown these to him on the islands in the river, as articles of food. They are long and moniliform, the expanded, tuberous portions being quite round and hard, and the whole root being several feet in length. Upon consulting descriptions of the plant at hand, I find no allusion to these rootstocks being moniliform. They would seem to be quite characteristic.—W. W. BAILEY, *Brown University, Providence, R. I.*

Nymphæa odorata.—We learn from our text-books that the flowers of *Nymphæa* open in the day, and after fertilization are drawn under water by the contraction of the peduncle, where the fruit ripens. But of the means of dissemination furnished by nature to the seed, they say nothing.

Mr. R. H. Warder, son of Dr. John A. Warder, has a number of fine specimens of various species, *N. alba, N. odorata, N. tuberosa,* (?) &c., growing in an artificial pond on his father's place, near North Bend, Ohio. He has observed that numbers of seedling plants are coming up around the margin of the pond, and was for a time at a loss to know how the seeds strayed away from the neighborhood of the parent plant, if they were ripened under water and planted themselves on the the bottom, for the seed, as he knew, is of a greater specific gravity than water , and there was no current in the pond, and the water is never agitated so as to disturb the sediment. While gathering flowers he observed floating on the water, something resembling frog-spittle. A quantity was collected, placed in a vessel, and upon examination proved to be seeds of *Nymphæa* enveloped by the membranaceous aril, as described by the authors. This sac though open at the top still contains enough air to float the seed for some time, and thus by favoring winds or currents, it may be transported to some distance from the parent. A number of specimens kindly brought to the writer by Mr. Warder, remained afloat in a bottle, after being roughly handled in transportation, for abouttwenty-four hours, when they escaped from the membranaceous envelope, through its partial decay probably, and sank to the bottom, the sacs still floating. There being little chance, as Dr. Warder says, for a new plant to establish itself among the mass of roots of a *Nymphæa* bed, this means for the transportation of the seed to a favorable locality, will account partly for the wide distribution of the genus. Winds and currents would carry them to a distance while still contained in the sac, and when that buoy has lost its buoyancy, or through its decay, the seed drops in a favorable place, and a new plant will be estab-